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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,076	10/30/2001	Imaddin O. Albazz	CA920000068US1	8347
7590	03/26/2004		EXAMINER	
Gregory M. Doudnikoff IBM Corporation T81/503 PO Box 12195 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709			BORISSOV, IGOR N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3629	

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/004,076	ALBAZZ ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Igor Borissov	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 101 has been withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

**Claims 1, 6-7, 12-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Arnold et al. (US 5,987,423).**

Arnold et al. (Hereinafter Arnold) teaches a method and system for object oriented technology framework for order processing, comprising:

As per claims 1, 6, 7, 12-13, 15, 17 and 19,

storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules available to be selected for inclusion in a business contract (column 15, lines 34-49);

storing at least one policy set containing parameters corresponding to selected rules from the compilation of business rules (column 15, lines 26-49);

generating links between the compilation of business rules and the policy set to generate specific rules to be embodied in the business contract (column 12, line 48 – column 13, line 45);

interlocking the compilation of business rules, the policy set and the links (column 16, line 48 – column 17, line 16; column 22, lines 52-56).

As per claims 14 and 18, generating at least one document processed according to the business rules in the business contract (column 13, line 55 – column 14, line 3).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 2-5, 8-11, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold.**

As per claims 2-3, 8-9, 16 and 20, Arnold teaches said method and system, comprising:

storing at least one product aspects that are unique to purchase orders for generating a list of a specified subset of products from a more general purchase product class (column 16, lines 48-58);

generating links between the list of a specified subset of products, the policy set and the purchase product class (column 16, line 48 – column 17, line 16).

Arnold does not specifically teach that generating a list of a specified subset of products includes storing a product list filter for generating said list of said subset of products.

However, the result of said “storing” and “generating” method steps is equivalent to storing said product list filter for generating said list of said subset of products.

Therefor, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Arnold to include generating a list of a specified subset of products includes storing a product list filter for generating said list of said subset of products, because it appears that the claimed features do not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art, and the teachings of Arnold would perform the invention as claimed by the applicant either with specifically teaching said product list filter, or not.

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As per claims 4-5 and 10-11, Arnold teaches said method and system, wherein the business contract comprises dynamic elements, which can be altered without modifying the business contract (column 14, line 11-24).

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on 1/23/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that Arnold fails to disclose "locking the business contract", examiner points out that Arnold teaches the method and system for creating and maintenance of the contract and for evaluation of performance against the contract (column 11, lines 40-42), thereby inherently indicating "locking" step.

In response to Applicant's argument that Arnold fails to classify products by anything other than discount, examiner stipulates that Arnold teaches categorizing products based on various features to accommodate user-defined data types, such as colors, units of measure, product availability, service quotations, etc. (column 7, lines 40-60).

In response to Applicant's argument that Arnold fails to disclose dynamic elements, which can be altered without changing the contract, examiner maintains that Arnold does teach this feature (column 14, line 11-24).

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see form PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Igor Borissov at telephone number (703) 305-4649.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 872-9306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached at (703) 308-2702.

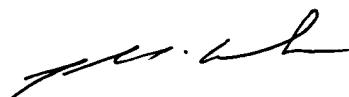
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

***Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks***  
***Washington D.C. 20231***

or faxed to:

**(703) 872-9306** [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.



JOHN G. WEISS  
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